

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06713 050850 Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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SUBJ: NEW SINKIANG LEADERSHIP

SUMMARY. IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP CHANGES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED IN SINKIANG. SAIFUDIN IS THE NEW CCP FIRST SECRETARY, AND REHABILITEE YANG YUNG IS THE NEW SINKIANG MILITARY REGION COMMANDER. PEKING IS NOW APPROACHING THE END OF THE PROVINCIAL CLEAN- UP EFFORT IT UNDERTOOK IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LIN AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

1. REVEALING THE MOST IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN THIS STRATEGIC REGION SINCE 1968, NCNA JULY 3 LISTED A NEW SINKIANG RULING GROUP AS GREETING SIHANOUK' S URUMCHI ARRIVAL. THE TURNOUT WAS LED BY NEW SINKIANG CCP FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND ORDINARY SECRETARIES, AMONG THEM A NEW SINKIANG MILITARY REGION (MR) COMMANDER AND FIRST POLITICAL COMMISAR. THE NEW FIRST SECRETARY AND MR FIRST POLITICAL COMMISAR IS SAIFUDIN, THE PRC' S MOST PROMINENT UIGUR. SAIFUDIN EMERGED AS THE REGION' S DE FACTO TOP MAN LAST JULY (1972 WR 31), WHEN HE ALSO LEAD A RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR SIHANOUK. SAIFUDIN' S RANKING THEN WAS THE FIRST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 06713 050850 Z

INDICATION THAT FORMER REGION BOSS LUNG SHU- CHIN, AN ASSOCIATE OF LIN PIAO' S HAD BEEN PURGED. EARLIER THIS YEAR, SAIFUDIN WAS CALLED TO PEKING, APPARENTLY TO RE READIED FOR HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT

2. DOUBTLESS SAIFUDIN' S APPOINTMENT COMES IN PART BECAUSE THE CENTER WANTED TO PLACE AT LEAST ONE MINORITY CADRE IN A POSITION OF REAL AUTHORITY. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY DESIREABLE IN SINKIANG, WHERE NON- HANS HAVE PROVEN VULNERABLE TO SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN THE PAST. NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS THAT SAIFUDIN DOES NOT ENJOY THE RETIME' S FULL CONFIDENCE AND ASLO THAT HE IS IN ILL- HEALTH (HONG KONG A-46).

3. THE TOP MILITARY JOB IN SINKIANG HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YANG YUNG, YANG, A HIGHLY- REGARDED PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER, WAS COMMANDER OF PEKING MR UNTIL LIN PIAO PURGED HIM IN 1967. HE WAS REHABILITATED LAST JULY 31, AND APPEARED AT SUBSEQUENT NATIONAL DAY AND MAY DAY TURNOUTS IN THE SHENYANG BASE OF POLITBURO MEMBER CHEN HSI- LIEN. YANG WILL HAVE IMPORTANT SINKIANG PARTY DUTIES AS WELL, SINCE HE AHS ALSO BEEN NAMED THE CCP SECOND SECRETARY THERE.

4. SHARING POWER WITH SAIFUDIN AND YANG IN SINKIANG IS NEW CCP THIRD SECRETARY TSAO SZU- MING. TSAO IS POSSIBLY A FORMER SUBORDINATE OF POLITBURO MEMBER HSU SHIH- YU. HE WAS IDENTIFIED IN A BROADCAST EARLIER THIS YEAR AS THE " PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBLE COMRADE" OF THE SINKIANG MR. WHETHER TSAO' S NEW PARTY TITLE REPRESENTS A SOP HANDED A DISAPPOINTED COMMANDER- IN- WAITING OR AN IMPORTANT PROMOTION INNOT CLEAR. HIS " THIRD SECRETARY" TITLE IS, HOWEVER, MOST UNUSUAL. HERETOFORE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROVINCIAL- LEVEL THIRD SECRETARIES IN CHINA. THE TITLE HAS BEEN USED ONLY TO IDENTIFY THE NO 3 MAN AT THE HIGHER CCP REGIONAL BUREAU LEVEL, A LEVEL THAT WAS ELIMINATED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

5. OTHER MILITARY MEN BESIDES YANG AND TSAO WERE FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN THE SINKIANG TURNOUT. ONE IS HO LIN- CHAO, WHO WAS IN SINKIANG IN 1970, APPEARED IN PEKING IN 1971 AND 1972, AND HAS NOW RETURNED TO SINKIANG AS A NEW CCP SECRETARY. ANOTHER PROMENENT PLA MAN IS HSU KUO- HSIN WHO-- EVEN THOUGH SINKIANG NOW HAS AN MR COMMANDER-- RETAINS HIS " FIRST DEPUTY COMMANDER" TITLE. TAKEN TOGETHER, THE PROMINENCE AWARED THESE AND OTHER PLA FIGURES

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PAGE 03 HONG K 06713 050850 Z

SUGGESTS THAT THOUGH SAIFUDIN IS ON TOP IN SINKIANG, HAN CHINESE SOLDIERS EXERCISE THE REAL AUTHORITY THERE.

6. LUNG IS THE SECOND EX- PROVINCIAL LEVEL BOSS, AND THE FIRST MR COMMANDER TO HAVE BEEN FORMALLY REPLACED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LIN AFFAIR. FOUR OTHER FORMER PROVINCIAL LEVEL AND MR BOSSES

ARE MARKED FOR REPLACEMENT. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS REPORTS, ALL
HAVE ALREADY BEEN DENOUNCED IN SECRET DOCUMENTS. THEY ARE EX- FIRST
SECRETARIES LAN I- NUNG (KWIECHOW) AND CHENG SHIH- CHING (KIANGSI),
FORMER

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